

July 18, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Comment Deadlines Established Regarding the LightSquared Technical Working
Group Report, IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Two years ago, I moved to Maine and discovered for the first time what the Digital Divide really means. While I live in an urban area, I travel to other parts of the state regularly. My job requires me to be reasonably accessible when I'm on the road which is quite difficult. An hour either way North or West of Portland and the signal to my phone begins to cut out regularly. What's worse is my broadband internet becomes less and less useful, and non-existent in many parts of the state.

This is such a great state and I'd love to move to a more rural location where I can hike and fish regularly, but the lack of high speed internet or even reliable cell phone service is a major deterrent. Like many people, I telecommute frequently. In Portland, that's not an issue. Outside of the urban centers, however, it's practically impossible. Even in Freeport, where I work regularly, you get out of the downtown core, and they lack reliable service.

It's why the continued build out of the LightSquared 4G wireless broadband infrastructure is so critical. I'm just thinking selfishly about the serious inconvenience unreliable service and lack of high-speed internet is, but for people in other parts of the state it's even worse. Many of my fellow Mainers in the rural parts of the state are on dial-up. Just imagine trying to compete with other small businesses when you can't even email or download photos in less than an hour. I consider DSL a downgrade, but dial-up is inconceivable.

I know there are some issues with certain GPS devices, particularly agricultural devices that require precision. It sounds like an engineering fix to me and I'm a bit unclear why we can't let the engineers figure out a workable solution to ensure Americans don't have to choose between GPS and high speed broadband internet.

Please continue to work toward a compromise solution that ensures our farmers have the equipment they need, and that our rural communities can finally cross a real bridge to serious and reliable broadband internet and cell phone service.

Respectfully,

Andrew Kain

16 Carlyle Rd.
Portland, Maine 04103